

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1653

By Powers

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Philip Ronald Graham of Clarksville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Philip Ronald Graham of Clarksville; and

WHEREAS, Philip Graham was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Clarksville, Philip Ronald Graham was born on July 4, 1950; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graham played in the band at Clarksville High School; he was the resident plumber and general fixer for people and homes through Graham and Sons Plumbing and a member of Clarksville Lodge No. 89; and

WHEREAS, after marrying Brenda Lewis Graham on November 24, 1978, he worked in the maintenance department at Austin Peay State University for seventeen years; in 1997, he moved to Marriott International as the director of engineering; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graham was a proud member of the Montgomery County Republican Party and an associate member of the Montgomery County Republican Women; he was honored to serve as a poll watcher in local elections, and he encouraged friends and strangers alike to be active participants in the town he loved; and

WHEREAS, Philip Graham was a friend of the Roxy Regional Theater, and he lent his talents to a national gathering of the arts for many years; and

WHEREAS, in perhaps his greatest service to the world around him, Mr. Graham deeply championed Cumberland Heights and the recovery community, as he worked daily to help others follow the better way; each year, he, along with his family, looked forward to May 17, the

day he affectionately called his other birthday, the day he joyfully celebrated another year of sobriety; and

WHEREAS, Philip Graham was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he will be mourned but fondly remembered by his wife of more than forty-three years, Brenda; his daughter, Ashley Elizabeth Graham Johnson; son-in-law, Don Johnson; and his cherished granddaughter, Brooklynn Isabella Graham, the light of his last years; and

WHEREAS, Philip Ronald Graham lived out his love of God in quiet acts of service, tending the earth, and loving all people and creatures who crossed his path; his strong faith was a gift to his family and to his community each day; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graham leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Philip Ronald Graham, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Graham.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.

